Meeting on Paragodu and Upper Tunga

268. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was convened by Chairman of Central Water Commission in the last week of June, 2003 to sort out controversial issues between States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on projects like Paragodu and Upper Tunga;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether another meeting is proposed in the near future; and

(d) if so, when it would be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. An inter-State meeting chaired by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) was held on 27.6.2003 which was attended by Secretaries and Technical officers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to discuss inter-state concerns of both the States in respect of projects like Paragodu and Upper Tunga besides other projects.

(b) Summing up the discussion, Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) stated that the Paragodu project as proposed by Government of Karnataka and reiterated by them at this meeting with written response to the concerns of Andhra Pradesh Government is a drinking water supply project and its parameters are required to follow the existing national norms for drinking water supply projects. In so far as Upper Tunga is concerned, CWC would look into arithmetical errors, if any, in the computation of water availability for this project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka

269. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka will have servere adverse impact on irrigation system in four districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Kurnool, Ananatpur, Cuddapah and Mahabubnagar; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government would intervene and instruct Karnataka Government to keep in view the interests of farmers of above four districts of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Upper Tunga Project of Karnataka proposed across river Tunga 100.00 m downstream of the existing Tunga anicut was accepted by the Advisory Committee on Ministry of Water Resources in its 80th meeting held on 07.02.2003. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently indicated that the clearance to the New Tunga Project should be revoked as it involves utilization beyond what is permitted by Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT). The Government of Karnataka has reported that the Upper Tunga Project is an on-going project covered under Scheme 'A' of the KWDT Award and thus there will not be any adverse impact on irrigation systems in the four districts of Andhra Pradesh namely, Kurnool, Ananatpur, Cuddapah, and Mahabubnagar. The issue was discussed in an inter-State meeting convened by the Chairman, Central Water Commission on 27th June, 2003.

Contaminated underground water

†270. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground water in several States has become contaminated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action being taken by Government to tackle this serious situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) As per studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, ground water in major parts of the country is by and large potable. However, ground water has been found contaminated in some parts of the country. The names of States and locations where ground water have been found contaminated and reasons thereof are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 199 Annexure No. 1]

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.